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THOS. D. TUTTLE, M. D., Secretary

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## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

It is our intention to publish a series of short, simple articles, stating in simple terms the common symptoms of the communicable diseases and the means by which they are conveyed. The following is the first of these articles.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlatina, Scarlet Fever and Scarlet Rash are all one and the same disease. Scarlatina does not mean a mild form of Scarlet Fever; it is simply the scientific name for Scarlet Fever. Scarlet Rash is also simply another name for Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever is a contagious disease. It is not, however, as contagious as is measles or smallpox; hence we occasionally find only a single case appearing in a family of several children, all of whom have been exposed. On the other hand, the poison of the disease is very long lived, cases having resulted from exposure to clothing, books, toys, etc., that had been infected several months before. Therefore, it is important that articles of slight value, such as toys, story books, etc., handled by the patient should be burned rather than take any chances of giving the disease to others in case the disinfection should prove incomplete from any cause.

The contagion does not travel through the air to any great extent, hence it is not apt to jump from one house to another, unless carried by some person or some article. Domestic animals, especially cats and dogs, are frequent carriers of disease. How natural it is for the mother to let "Fido" or "Tabby" come in "to see" the little one recovering from disease and to let the child pet the animal, and how equally natural it is for "Fido" and "Tabby" to jump over the fence and to play with the neighbor's children. Dogs and cats should be absolutely excluded not only from the sick room, but from any house where there is a contagious or infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever is contagious from the appearance of the

first symptom until desquamation or peeling is completed, until the last particle of detached skin has come away and the patient has been given an antiseptic bath.

All communicable diseases (contagious or infectious) have what is known as a period of incubation. This means the time consumed by the disease in developing the poison in the system; in other words, the time between exposure and the appearance of the first symptoms of the disease. In Scarlet Fever this period of incubation is from two to eight days, usually the symptoms appearing by the fourth day after exposure.

The onset of the disease is usually sudden; the child complains of a sore throat and of being "sick at the stomach," and frequently vomits. In young children convulsions are not uncommon. The fever rises rapidly and soon reaches a high degree. Within twenty-four or thirty-six hours the eruption appears, usually first on the neck, but it may appear at any other point first and gradually extend to the rest of the body. The eruption is bright red, hence the name Scarlet Fever, and appears smooth from a distance. The lips and chin are usually pale and present a marked contrast to the rest of the face. The tongue is coated, with small red points appearing through the coating, causing the "strawberry appearance."

The disease may appear in a very mild form. The sore throat may be so slight that it does not cause complaint and the eruption so light that it does not attract attention. In these cases the "strawberry tongue" is the only characteristic symptom. In these cases there is usually some peeling and this is often the first sign of sickness noticed by the parents. These cases are a most common cause of epidemics. The disease is not suspected and yet the most severe form of scarlet fever may be contracted from exposure to these mild cases.

Scarlet Fever is usually not a very fatal disease. Last year only twelve deaths were reported in this state as a result of scarlet fever, but how many of those reported as



having died of Bright's disease and how many deaf children resulted from this disease during the same period will never be known.

We do not believe that there is a mother in this state who would knowingly expose any child to this disease, but you may do so unknowingly unless you watch your children and remember that a simple "sore throat" may be a mild scarlet fever. Remember that the disease is contagious from the very onset, from the start of the sore throat, until the last sign of peeling has vanished; remember that the disease may be carried by anything from a teaspoon to a pet dog or cat or your best silk dress. If the period of quarantine seems long remember the anxiety and worry you have been subjected to and think of the worry and anxiety, possibly the loss of a dear little one, that would result if you were released from quarantine before the last possible danger from infection has passed.

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1907.

**SMALLPOX**—Cases of smallpox were reported as follows: Fergus, 1; Granite, 1; Missoula City, 5 (4 imported from Ohio and 1 from Washington); Park, 1; Ravalli, 2; Silver Bow, 2 (both in Butte, both imported); Billings, 1 (imported from Nebraska). Total 13 cases. Total last month 5; total October 1906, 6.

**DIPHTHERIA**—Cases of diphtheria were reported as follows: Beaverhead, 5; Carbon, 13; Choteau, 3; Deer Lodge, 5 (all in Anaconda); Fergus, 5; Flathead, 25; Gallatin, 7; Jefferson, 3; Lewis and Clark, 6 (all in Helena); Meagher, 6; Missoula, 9 (8 in Missoula city); Park, 9 (8 in Livingston); Rosebud, 3; Sanders, 5; Silver Bow, 60 (48 in Butte); Valley, 1. Total for the month, 165; total last month, 131; total October, 1906, 23.

**SCARLATINA**—Cascade, 6 (5 in Great Falls); Dawson, 1; Deer Lodge, 6 (all in Anaconda); Fergus 2; Gallatin, 7 (6 in Bozeman); Silver Bow, 9 (8 in Butte). Total, 31; total

last month, 21; total October, 1906, 27.

**MEASLES**—Cases of measles were reported as follows: Deer Lodge, 3 (all in Anaconda); Fergus, 1; Granite, 1; Park, 4. Total, 9; total last month, 14; total October, 1906, 10.

**TYPHOID FEVER**—Cases of typhoid fever were reported as follows: Beaverhead, 3; Carbon, 15; Cascade, 66 (46 in Great Falls); Custer, 12; Dawson, 7; Deer Lodge, 1 (in Anaconda, reported as having come from Missoula county); Fergus, 14; Flathead, 7; Lewis and Clark, 18 (all in Helena, 9 given as having been infected before coming to city); Madison, 2; Missoula, 51 (all are reported from Missoula city with a history of one having been infected in the city, 6 as having been imported from other states and the balance as having been infected in the county); Park, 5 (Livingston 1. Last month we gave Livingston credit for 3 cases, 2 of these were infected before coming to city for treatment); Powell, 3; Ravalli 1; Silver Bow, 16 (all in Butte); Teton, 1; Yellowstone, 43 (40 of these are reported from Billings, 18 of these are reported as having originated outside of city). Total cases reported, 284. Total reported last month, 255. Total for October, 1906, 100. Of the 284 cases reported for October, 50 are given as having started before October and should have been reported in September, so that the total for October should have been 234 cases while the total for September should have been 305. The counties effected by this change would be Cascade, Yellowstone and Fergus.

## MORTALITY

Deaths Reported to the State Board of Health for the Month of  
October, 1907, Arranged According to Counties,

	Tuberculosis.....	Diphtheria.....	Typhoid Fever....	Meningitis.....	Acute Intestinal Diseases.....	Whooping-Cough	Nephritis .....	Pneumonia. ....	Organic Heart Disease.....	Malignant Tumors .....	Suicide.....	Violence other than Suicide.....	Alcoholism.....	All other Causes..	Totals.....
Beaverhead.....									1						1
Broadwater.....													1		1
Carbon.....					3										3
Cascade.....	3	2	2		1	1		1				1	1		20
Choteau.....		1			1				3					3	8
Custer.....					1								1		2
Dawson.....				1					3					1	5
Deer Lodge.....				2			1			1				14	18
Fergus.....					1		1			1		1		3	7
Flathead.....		1	2	1				1	1	1	1	1		8	17
Gallatin.....		1		1			2	1	2					2	9
Granite.....														1	1
Jefferson.....		1										1		1	3
Lewis and Clark.....	2		5				2		4	2	2	3		10	30
Madison.....	2				1							1		3	7
Meagher.....	1												1	2	4
Missoula.....	1	1	8					4	1	2		6		10	33
Park.....			1			1			2			1		5	10
Powell.....			1		1			1	1			2		1	7
Ravalli.....								2						1	3
Rose Bud.....		3													3
Sanders.....												1			1
Silver Bow.....	8	5	2	2	4		3	9	4	1	2	8	4	37	89
Sweet Grass.....															
Teton.....	1		1									1			3
Valley.....	1							1				2		2	6
Yellowstone.....	1		4	1			2	2		1		2		6	19
Totals.....	20	15	26	8	13	1	12	22	22	9	5	32	7	123	315

Death rate per 100,000, 112.5

Annual Death rate per 1,000, 13.5

### Deaths reported from cities of 5,000 or more inhabitants

Anaconda.....				2			1							8	11
Billings.....	1		3				2	1		1				4	13
Bozeman.....				1			1		1			1		1	5
Butte.....	8	5	2	2	4		3	9	4	1	2	8	4	36	88
Great Falls.....	2	1	2			1		1						5	12
Helena.....	2		5						4	2	1	2		9	25
Livingston.....			1					1						3	6
Missoula.....	1	1	7					2	1	1		1		6	20



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